

REMARKS

Claims 7-9, 13-17, and 19 are presented for further examination. Claims 9 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1-6, 10-12, and 18 have been canceled.

In the final Office Action mailed December 2, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 9, 12, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Majumdar (of record) in view Bertolini (of record). Claims 5, 6, and 19 were rejected as obvious over Majumdar in view of Bertolini and further in view of Luoni et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,631,588). Claims 7, 8, and 13-16 were allowed.

Applicant respectfully requests further consideration and examination of the claims.

Applicant has canceled rejected claims 1, 5, and 6.

Rejected claim 9 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 7. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 9 is now allowable.

Independent claim 17 has been amended to now depend from allowable claim 13. Dependent claim 19 depends from claim 17 and ultimately from allowable claim 13. In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that claims 17 and 19 are now in condition for allowance.

All of the claims remaining in this application are now in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicant's undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Application No. 10/769,563
Reply to Office Action dated December 2, 2005

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

Respectfully submitted,

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